IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus ~~for converting image data composed of three-color components into image data composed of five or more color components, said apparatus~~ comprising:

a converter, arranged to color-convert [[the]] image data composed of three-color components into image data composed of four-color components at the same time; and

a controller, arranged to ~~allow~~ make said converter [[to]] perform continuous color conversions ~~to generate image data of five or more color components~~ and hold its color conversion result in a memory so as to generate image data composed of five or more color components,

wherein said controller sets a table for first color conversion to said converter to convert image data composed of the three-color components into image data composed of the four-color components and makes said converter perform the first color conversion, and sets another table for second color conversion to said converter to convert the image data composed of the three-color components into image data composed of at least one color component except for the four-color components in the five or more color components and makes said converter perform the second color conversion.

2. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows~~ makes said converter [[to]] execute the first color conversion ~~into four-color components~~ and then [[to]] execute the second color ~~conversions of remaining one or more colors~~ conversion.

3. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller makes said converter ~~is composed of look-up tables and said controller realizes~~ execute the second color conversion ~~of five or more colors by changing setting of the look-up tables~~ and then execute the first color conversion.

4. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the five or more ~~color-~~color components are ~~red, green and blue, and the four~~ six-color components ~~are cyan, magenta, yellow and black~~.

5. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the four-color components are cyan, magenta, yellow and black, and the color components expect for the four-color components are light cyan and light magenta ~~are included as five or more color components~~.

6. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said [[color]] converter performs the color conversion synchronizing with image formation of a printer engine.

7. (currently amended): An image processing method of an image processing apparatus having a converter arranged to color-convert ~~converting~~ image data composed of three-color components into image data composed of ~~five or more~~ four color components at the same time, the method comprising the steps of:

~~allowing~~ controlling the converter~~, which almost simultaneously color-converts three-color components into four-color components,~~ to execute continuous color conversions; and

holding color conversion results of the converter in memory to generate [[the]] image data composed of five or more color components,

wherein the controlling step includes setting a table for first color conversion to the converter to convert image data composed of the three-color components into image data composed of the four-color components and making the converter perform the first color conversion, and setting another table for second color conversion to the converter to convert the image data composed of the three-color components into image data composed of at least one color component expect for the four-color components in the five or more color components and making the converter perform the second color conversion.

8. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing, in executable for, a program comprising program code for causing an image processing apparatus, which has a converter arranged to color-convert image data composed of three color components into image data composed of four color components at the same time, to perform an image processing method ~~of converting image data composed of three-color~~

~~components into image data composed of five or more color components~~, the method comprising the steps of:

~~allowing~~ controlling the converter~~, which almost simultaneously color-converts three-color components into four-color components,~~ to execute continuous color conversions; and

holding color conversion results of the converter in memory to generate [[the]] image data composed of five or more color components,

wherein the controlling step includes setting a table for first color conversion to the converter to convert image data composed of the three-color components into image data composed of the four-color components and making the converter perform the first color conversion, and setting another table for second color conversion to the converter to convert the image data composed of the three-color components into image data composed of at least one color component expect for the four color components in the five or more color components and making the converter perform the second color conversion.

9. - 16. (canceled).